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The Segregation Program: A Statement for Appointed Personnel in WRA Centers, June 1943

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"The Segregation Program: A statement for
appointed personnel" = (Jun 1943)

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SEGREGATION OF EVACUEES

While the great majority of the residents of the relocation centers are loyal to the United States and sympathetic to its war aims, the presence of some who refuse to pledge loyalty or good behavior made it more difficult for the War Relocation Authority to fulfill its responsibility to the evacuated people. Accordingly, in May 1943 public announcement was made of plans to segregate the residents of relocation centers on the basis of national loyalty.

The Tule Lake center in northern California was designated as the segregation center, to be the place of residence for those persons who indicate their unwillingness to support the war aims of the United States. All persons found after careful study and investigation to be disloyal to the United States or unsympathetic to the war aims of this nation were designated for removal to the Tule Lake center. Those residents of the Tule Lake center who were loyal or sympathetic to the United States have been removed to other centers. The movement took place in September and October, 1943, and was carried out with the cooperation of the War Department.

Included among the segregants in the Tule Lake center are persons who have requested repatriation or expatriation to Japan, those who refused to pledge loyalty to the United States or (in the case of aliens) good behavior and persons who, because of unfavorable intelligence reports or other records of un-American behavior in the past, are found to be ineligible for leave under WRA procedures.

The population of segregants in Tule Lake, including family members who voluntarily went to the segregation center, is approximately 18,000.

Residents of the relocation centers will be eligible to relocate into ordinary communities, under leave regulations of the War Relocation Authority, but the privilege of leave will be denied segregants.

THE SEGREGATION PROGRAM
A STATEMENT FOR APPOINTED PERSONNEL
IN W.R.A. CENTERS

WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE SEGREGATION PROGRAM OF WRA

A foreward by Director Myer

GUY W. COOK
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The War Relocation Authority is responsible for the welfare of all the people of Japanese ancestry who live in relocation centers. The execution of this responsibility is made more difficult by the fact that some of the relocation center residents have indicated that they are neither loyal to this country nor sympathetic to its war aims, while the great majority have indicated that they wish to be American. The War Relocation Authority has an obligation to each of these groups, and it also has an obligation to safeguard and further the national interest.

After long and serious deliberation, the decision has been made that the responsibilities of the War Relocation Authority can best be fulfilled if a separation is made between those who wish to follow the American way of life, and those whose interests are not in harmony with those of the United States.

Accordingly, procedures for a program of segregation have been developed. All relocation center residents found not to be loyal or sympathetic to the United States will be moved to the Tule Lake Center, and those Tule Lake residents found to be American in their loyalties or sympathies will be moved to other centers or, preferably, given permission to relocate outside. The population of the relocation centers after segregation will be composed of those whose interests are bound with the welfare of the United States, and who therefore are eligible to move from the relocation centers to outside communities.

The program of segregation is not being undertaken in any sense as a measure of punishment or penalty for those who will be moved to or retained in the Tule Lake Center. The War Relocation Authority recognizes the integrity of those persons of Japanese ancestry who frankly have declared their sympathy for Japan or their lack of allegiance to the United States. While the privilege of leave will be denied to those assigned to the Tule Lake Center, this privilege would not have been available to them had they remained in other centers.

Segregation offers promise of giving to those evacuees who want to be American the opportunity to live as Americans and to express their Americanism without interference; it should result in increased assurance of harmony in the relocation centers; it should increase public acceptance of those granted leave clearance, and thus aid in the relocation of these people.

The decisions as to who will be segregated will be made in a spirit of fairness and justice.

While it is recognized that the segregation process will put to much trouble, those persons who must move, I have no question that the national interest and the long range welfare of the thousands of loyal American citizens and law abiding aliens justify the step to be taken.

The successful execution of the segregation program demands the full cooperation of every member of the appointed staff at each relocation center. I have confidence that the task will be completed efficiently and with considerate understanding of the problems of the evacuees.

Dillon S. Myer
Director

THE APPROACH TO SEGREGATION.

Segregation is the inevitable result of public reaction to the indiscriminate intermingling of evacuees who are loyal to Japan and those who are loyal to the United States. The idea of segregation has found sponsors among evacuees, the press, officials of the Federal government, and among thoughtful observers in the general public. It is a significant step in a social problem unprecedented in American history.

Segregation was decided upon because it holds promise of benefiting the evacuees, immediately and in the future. Particularly, it should benefit those who, regardless of their citizenship, have indicated that they want to be American. While the War Relocation Authority cannot and will not disregard its obligations to those evacuees who prefer to be Japanese, it would be remiss in its duty if it were to overlook any opportunity to hasten the time when those who want to be American may enjoy their full rights as citizens or law abiding aliens.

The segregation process is based primarily on the choice of the individual evacuee, as expressed in words or in acts. Some of the evacuees have said they prefer to live in Japan; others, while not expressing desire to live in Japan, have refused to pledge loyalty to the United States; still others, by their acts in the relocation centers or before evacuation, have indicated that their interests lie with Japan rather than with the United States! In one way or another, these people have made their own choices. The War Relocation Authority is assuming the grave responsibility of interpreting what those choices were.

In carrying on the segregation process it is necessary to do three major things:

1. Make certain that all evacuees have full understanding of the reasons for segregation, the basis for it, and how it is to be carried out.
2. Determine with all possible fairness and accuracy who should be assigned to the segregation center

NOTE: This statement on the segregation program for appointed personnel is general rather than complete and detailed. Each staff member should have a copy of the pamphlet prepared for evacuees "Segregation of Persons of Japanese Ancestry". Further details will be found in Administrative Instruction No. 100, in the "Manual of Operations", and in other statements: "Special Problems In Regard To Evacuee Attitudes and the Segregation Program", and "Questions and Answers For Governing Administration And Policy of the Segregation Center. "These will be available for study in the office of the Project Director.

3. Help the persons to be moved to prepare for their departure well in advance, so the actual movement may be made smoothly and on schedule.

The actual movement of non-segregants from Tule Lake and segregants from other centers to Tule Lake will be carried out by the Army, with the cooperation of the Office of Defense Transportation and the Association of American Railroads. It is expected that upwards of 20,000 persons will be transferred from one center to another.

EVACUEE UNDERSTANDING AND ACCEPTANCE.

The precise methods of presenting to evacuees the reasons for segregation, how it will operate, and to elicit their full cooperation will vary from center to center. In general, however, it will be necessary to conduct an extensive educational program throughout the center, through lectures, forums, and discussions of many types, as well as printed materials.

A Segregation Information Bureau probably will be found helpful, as a place to which evacuees may come for answers to their questions. This bureau should be provided with all official statements dealing with segregation, including Administrative Instruction No. 100; the Manual of Operations; the statement answering questions on the operation of the segregation center, and other informative material which may be developed.

A pamphlet on segregation, intended for distribution to every evacuee family, has been prepared in English and Japanese and will be available in each relocation center. A slightly modified version will be available for residents of Tule Lake.

The project newspaper will be utilized to provide information on segregation, especially to keep residents currently informed as the time approaches for actual movement. Official notices on bulletin boards also will be employed.

Each staff member has an implicit responsibility to become familiar with the manner in which the segregation program is to be carried out, and to know where authoritative information can be obtained. It is highly important that persons not on the Board of Review or the Leave Clearance Section refrain from speculating on reasons for any decisions of those two hearing bodies. Likewise, the Welfare Section should be the one group of staff members to discuss with evacuees their decisions as to whether family members not designated for segregation should remain with other members of the family who are to be segregated.

The details of preparing for departure will be discussed with each family or individual to move by a group of Information Consultants. There is no reason, however, why these matters should not be discussed by any well informed staff member who is questioned by an evacuee.

Each family or person concerned will receive written notices requesting him to appear before the Board of Review or the Leave Section, as the case may be, for hearings. He will be notified in writing of the decision of the Board. Those to be moved will be instructed to appear for an interview with a representative of the Welfare Section. Later, notices will be provided concerning details of preparing baggage, crating furniture and other possessions and the time of departure and the car in which the person or family will travel.

It is highly probable that during the segregation period, rumors will be extremely numerous, some of them stemming from ignorance, some from fear, and perhaps some from a desire to obstruct the program. One person, such as the Reports Officer, should be designated to head a "Rumor Clinic" and to provide information which will block their further spread once they are reported. Each staff member should be aware of the troubles that may arise from rumors which are founded on misinformation or partial information. When a rumor is encountered, the staff member should do three things: a. Supply the correct information to the person making the erroneous statement; b. Attempt to learn its source; c. Report it immediately to the Reports Officer, so an attempt may be made to spike it before it receives greater currency.

DETERMINING WHO SHALL BE SEGREGATED.

Administrative Instruction No. 100 provides that persons whose applications for repatriation or expatriation were in good standing as of July 1, 1943, shall be designated for segregation (or for continued residence in the case of those in Tule Lake) without hearing.

Hearings will be held for various categories of others who are considered for segregation.

A board of Review for Segregation will be appointed by the Project Director to hold hearings for those who have refused to pledge loyalty to the United States or good behavior while in this country ("No" answers, refusals to answer, or refusal to register). This will be a "streamlined" hearing, to make sure that the attitude of the evacuee concerned has not changed, and that his earlier statement, or refusal to register, reflected his true feelings. Those whose lack of loyalty to the United States is determined by the Board of Review will be designated for segregation. Those who indicate that they now desire to pledge loyalty or good behavior will be given the opportunity to do so, and then will be asked to appear before a representative or committee of the Leave Section for another hearing to determine

eligibility for leave clearance.

The Leave Section will hold hearings for all persons assigned to it by the Board of Review, for those who qualified their answers to Question 28 in the registration, those who have been denied leave clearance by the Director, those with adverse intelligence records, those who have been unfavorably passed upon by the Joint Board, those who applied for repatriation or expatriation and then withdrew their applications before July 1, 1943, those who said "No" to Question 28 and later changed their answers to "Yes", and others whose eligibility for leave is in doubt. The object of the hearings of persons in this group will be to determine those who are eligible for leave clearance. It is anticipated that the leave clearance hearings for this group may not be completed in all centers by the time the major movement of segregants is completed. Persons who are determined to be ineligible for leave as result of the leave clearance hearings will be moved to, or retained in, the Tule Lake Center, even after the principal movement is over.

Those who are declared eligible for leave may relocated into ordinary communities at any time they see fit. Tule Lake residents declared eligible for leave will be moved to other centers (Minidoka, Central Utah, Heart Mountain, Granada, Rohwer, or Jerome) or relocate from Tule Lake before the segregation process is completed. A special effort will be made to encourage eligible evacuees in Tule Lake to relocate, rather than moving to another relocation center. A special staff will visit Tule Lake while it is still a relocation center, to encourage outside relocation of eligible people, and priority on job opportunities will be given to residents of this center, up to the time when the movement begins.

PREPARATIONS FOR MOVING.

Each person or family designated to move from a relocation center to Tule Lake, or from Tule Lake to another center, will be interviewed by representatives of the Welfare Section, to determine whether or not some of the persons not required to move wish to do so in order to stay with the family; whether all persons scheduled to move are able to travel; whether any special train accommodations will be necessary. These interviews will require a large staff, and certain staff members may be assigned to work as members of the Welfare Section.

The Project Medical Director may certify that certain individuals are too ill or infirm to be moved, or that special accommodations should be provided in the event that they are moved. Members of the immediate family will be permitted to remain with persons whose physical condition will not permit their being moved.

A staff of Information Consultants will be designated by the Project Director to give detailed instructions and assistance to evacuees who are to be transferred, in preparing for their departure. Personal luggage which will be needed on the trip will be taken into the coaches. Each person should take items which will be needed after arrival at the new location as checkable baggage. This includes such items as trunks, boxes with handles, duffle bags. Baggage may be checked through up to 150 pounds for each full fare ticket. It will travel on the transfer train, but will not be available during the trip. Furniture, including that which has been made at the center, household furnishings, and other necessary possessions not taken as luggage or checked as baggage, will be sent later by freight. All items should be properly crated and tagged. Tags will be provided by the Information Consultants, and the War Relocation Authority will provide materials for crating without cost.

POLICIES IN TULE LAKE CENTER

In most respects, Tule Lake Center will continue its operations under the same policies as in the past. A major change in policy will prohibit the granting of leave to residents of the center. It should be made clear to evacuees that this prohibition on the granting of leave applies to all persons in the center, whether they are there by assignment or whether they voluntarily live in the center in order to be with members of their family assigned to the center.

There will be no representative evacuee community council in the Tule Lake Center, and no Judicial Commission. Violators of laws or WRA regulations will be tried in the civil courts or by the Project Director.

Schools will be operated on the same basis as at relocation centers, except that parents may decide whether or not they wish to have their children attend. If other types of schools are desired by the segregants, they must be provided at their own expense.

Food, housing, medical service, legal assistance, property assistance, community enterprises, leisure time activities and freedom of worship will be provided or will be permitted by WRA as in relocation centers.

Establishment of the Tule Lake Center as a place of residence for those who are not loyal to the United States will not eliminate the Leupp Center, as a place of residence for socially maladjusted men.

A SUMMARY OF THE STEPS IN SEGREGATION.

Following is a summary of the steps in segregation presented in more detail in the Manual of Operations:

1. A list of repatriates and expatriates from the Washington Office will be checked against the center's records and revised. A copy of the revised list will be returned to the Washington office.
 2. The Project Director will notify each repatriate or expatriate that he is to be segregated. The Welfare Section will conduct interviews to determine whether the family is to move in its entirety and to discuss further plans. All medical cases will be referred to the medical officer.
 3. All persons who refused to register in February and March, or who failed to answer Question 28, or who answered "No" to Question 28 will be notified to appear before a Board of Review established by the Project Director. (More than one such board may be appointed.) After hearings, those designated for segregation will be notified of the decision, and instructed to have an interview with the Welfare Section. Those not immediately designated for segregation will be referred to the Leave Section for further hearing.
 4. Persons in categories scheduled for leave clearance hearings will be notified to appear before representatives of the Leave Section. They will be given thorough hearings. Those eligible for leave clearance may remain in the center (except at Tule Lake where those eligible for leave clearance are to be transferred) or may relocate. Those declared ineligible for leave clearance will be interviewed by the Welfare Section representatives to determine family plans.
- Both the Board of Review and the Leave staff will make records of its hearings. The records will be transmitted to the Project Director for final decision and notification of the persons concerned.
5. The Welfare Section will hold interviews to determine the desires of members of families, as to whether or not they wish to accompany other members of the family to Tule Lake. If the family is to be split, those members not to be segregated should discuss their plans with the Welfare Section to make sure that minor children will be cared for. The Welfare Section will make its report on a form interview sheet which will be submitted to the Project Director. A summary report on persons to be segregated will be sent to the Washington office each week.
 6. An alphabetical list of all persons to be transferred will be prepared. All persons on this list will be notified that they are to be transferred. The list also will be broken down by blocks.

At Tule Lake, the Welfare Section will learn which are the preferred centers of those to be transferred. Persons interested

in relocation will be referred to the relocation staff. Names of those who elect to relocate will be deleted from the list of persons to be transferred from Tule Lake.

7. From the transfer list, train lists will be prepared indicating the persons included in each trip, and the cars in which they will ride. A monitor for each car will be designated from the appointive personnel to account for the evacuees in each car. The monitor's duties are complete at entrainment.

8. Persons to be transferred will be notified by letter of their transfer, giving the date and time of departure, place to report, and indicating members of the family who are expected to make the transfer.

9. Train and car lists will be prepared and posted in designated places within the centers. The nine relocation centers will send copies of these lists to the project director at the Tule Lake segregation center. Likewise, the project director at Tule Lake will send similar schedules to the relocation centers.

10. Information Consultants will confer with evacuees regarding prospective journeys, obtain Form WRA 156 for handling freight, hand out baggage tickets, check to see that each person knows the date, time, trip and car letter for his journey. These Consultants will complete the block check sheet and give out prepared information, making a housing census if necessary.

11. Preliminary housing assignments for transferees expected will be made in all centers except Gila River, Colorado River and Manzanar. At the same time necessary alterations in barracks quarters will be arranged for.

12. Arrangements will be made for crating and marking the evacuees household goods and freight, for its delivery to warehouses, for picking up checkable baggage and for the transportation to the railhead of the individuals and their hand luggage.

13. The project director will arrange for the WRA files, arranged by families, to be sent with each train load.

14. The project medical officer will prepare certificates of illness on WRA Form 279 for all persons who will not make the trip on account of illness. These certificates and the names of persons staying behind to care for the ill persons will be sent to the project director's office for use in making the final train and car lists.

15. Information concerning the number of persons to be transferred from each center will be reported regularly to Washington during August. On August 24, directors of all centers except Tule Lake are to report on the number of persons needing sleeping accommodations, and the director of Tule Lake is to submit this information on September 10. The Washington office will then confirm

schedules, equipment, and military escort.

16. Arrangements will be made with the train commander and the local railway agents for special foods, for special medical supplies, for rail and tourist tickets, for detailed individual instructions regarding infant and sick cases and their feeding and care.

17. Before the train arrives a check will be made of final arrangements for loading operations and entrainment. Placards with car letters and standards must be ready and motorized equipment and drivers properly informed. The Operations Division will deliver checkable baggage to the warehouse or railhead.

18. The Operations Division cooperating with the Train Director will see that special food, is delivered to the train and that special medical supplies are delivered. The Operations Division will be responsible for seeing that checkable baggage is loaded and to see that files and other records are delivered to the Director's Representative aboard the train.

19. Persons to be transferred, and their luggage will be moved to the railroad station or loading point. Here travelers will be assembled by car groups. The medical staff will check the car groups. The monitors will check off persons in car groups and report to the project director and train commander.

20. The project director will hold a final conference to check over last minute details with the Director's Representative and the military train commander. The project director will deliver route sheets to the train commander and a copy to the Director's Representative. These details completed, the train will depart.

21. The project director will then wire the project director at the center of the destination and the Director in Washington of the departure of the train.

22. Upon arrival at their destination, the newly arrived evacuees will be received and assigned to quarters. The project director will notify the Washington office and the director of the center from which the evacuees came of their arrival.